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No. 10

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 1, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Don Davidson, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, our Heavenly Father, maker of all that there is, the One in whom we live and move and have our being. We pause at the beginning of this day to acknowledge that You are God, and we are not. We are but Your servants, and we humbly bow before You.

Thank You for this rich and diverse country, the United States of America, and for this great deliberative body and the role each Member plays in leading our government and charting our Nation's course.

Grant these men and women wisdom and courage for the decisions of this hour. Give them strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Speak, Lord, and may these hear You and obey You, that Your will can be done on Earth just as it is in Heaven.

We confess our sinfulness, but we are reminded of the scripture that says if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We ask for Your grace in abundance.

Through Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 one-minute speeches on each side.

HELP OUR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to work more collectively and comprehensively in Congress during the legislative year ahead to help our local small businesses. The President stressed last night that the tax and economic policies to help small businesses lead to continued economic growth and new jobs. Now is the time to put those words into action.

During the past month, I have held town hall forums with small business owners and employees in New York's

Hudson Valley. We agreed that there are five areas that we should focus our efforts to help our small businesses:

One, lower health insurance costs for small businesses.

Two, stop excessive and redundant Federal regulations on small business.

Three, level the playing field for small businesses and give them the same advantages as larger companies.

Four, permanently end the death tax that is a direct hit on family-owned small businesses and family farms.

Five, extend tax relief for small businesses to help them grow and create jobs.

Let us fully demonstrate our commitment to small businesses by continuing to pursue legislative solutions to the challenges being faced by small businesses in the Hudson Valley and throughout our country.

THE "CHALLENGER" MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, 20 years ago, the seven crew members of the space shuttle "Challenger" tragically died while seeking the wonders and worlds of space.

In the tradition of great explorers of the past like Columbus, the Conquistadores and Lewis and Clark, the astronauts aboard the space shuttle "Challenger" were exploring and embarking on the last frontier when they gave their lives on January 28, 1986.

That courageous "Challenger" crew of Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnick, Ellison Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis, high school teacher Christa McAuliffe and Texan Ronald McNair were the best of the brave, the bold and the brazen. They were not only remembered by NASA in my hometown of Houston, but throughout the world.

These magnificent seven epitomized the spirit of the explorers of old and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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